

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
BOARD ACTION SUMMARY

DEPT: Community Services Agency

BOARD AGENDA:5.A.6
AGENDA DATE: May 3, 2022

SUBJECT:

Approval to Proclaim May 2022 as CalFresh Awareness Month in Stanislaus County

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-0204

On motion of Supervisor Grewal Seconded by Supervisor Chiesa
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: B. Condit, Chiesa, Grewal, C. Condit, and Chairman Withrow

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

- 1) Approved as recommended
- 2) Denied
- 3) Approved as amended
- 4) Other:

MOTION:

ATTEST: Elizabeth A. King
ELIZABETH A. KING, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

File No.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
AGENDA ITEM**

DEPT: Community Services Agency

BOARD AGENDA:5.A.6
AGENDA DATE: May 3, 2022

CONSENT:

CEO CONCURRENCE: YES

4/5 Vote Required: No

SUBJECT:

Approval to Proclaim May 2022 as CalFresh Awareness Month in Stanislaus County

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. Proclaim the month of May 2022 as CalFresh Awareness Month in Stanislaus County.

DISCUSSION:

The foundation for the Food Stamp Program, also known as “SNAP” Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program was first built in 1933 as part of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA). The program, referred to as the Federal Surplus Relief Corporation, was established in the midst of the Great Depression, when prices for crops fell dramatically and farms across America were struggling to deal with the excess supply. To support farmers, the Federal government bought basic farm commodities at discount prices and distributed them among hunger relief agencies in states and local communities.

In 1964, the Food Stamp Act passed. The goal of this initiative was to achieve a more effective use of agricultural overproduction, improve levels of nutrition among individuals with low-incomes and strengthen the agricultural economy. The Federal government funded the program and licensed retailers, while the states authorized applications for food stamps and distributed the benefits.

Major revisions to the program were made in the Food Stamp Act of 1977, including the elimination of the requirement that participants purchase the stamps; the establishment of uniform national standards of eligibility; the expansion of the program to minority communities; and more federal support for the implementation of the program at the state level. The SNAP as we know it today continues to identify the primary purposes of strengthening the agricultural economy and providing improved levels of nutrition among low-income households; this goal remains in effect and has a significant impact on Stanislaus County to this day.

In 1981, nutrition education, now termed SNAP-Education (SNAP-ED) in the Food Stamp Program was established as an optional program to the states. By 2004, nutrition education was provided in all 50 states. In the late 1990’s the electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card was introduced. This was part of the program’s goal to streamline administration, with the added benefits of reducing the stigma some individuals felt when using the old stamps while at the same time reducing fraud and ensuring ease of use. In addition to this change, funding for the program was converted to block grants

for States to administer and included stricter requirements on SNAP usage and eligibility.

In 2019, California's SNAP program, (referred to as CalFresh) expanded to include elderly and disabled individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income and State Supplementary Payments (SSI/SSP).

Today, the SNAP program is serving more than 37 million Americans in an average month. SNAP is a critical safety net program and has the potential to be one of the most important health and nutrition initiatives in the United States. The Community Services Agency (CSA) has partnered with local Community Based Organizations, the Health Services Agency (HSA) and the UC Davis Cooperative Extension Program to expand nutrition information available to all areas of Stanislaus County.

In Stanislaus County, EBT cards can be used at grocery stores, Farmers Markets and online. There are 37,646 households (71,183 individuals) receiving CalFresh benefits, bringing approximately \$18 million dollars each month into the local economy. The current value of CalFresh benefits includes one-time augmentations: a minimum allotment of \$95 per household as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency and a temporary 15% increase authorized under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 for the period of January 1 through September 30, 2021. The CalFresh benefits are entirely State and Federal funded; there is no local match support required. Each \$1 of CalFresh benefits spent in Stanislaus County generates \$1.79 in economic activity through the support of local businesses. This helps the local economy, as well as providing food/nutrition assistance for elderly, disabled, low-income families and single adults in need.

The Community Services Agency is requesting that May 2022 be proclaimed as CalFresh Awareness Month. Proclaiming May as CalFresh Awareness Month will increase knowledge and understanding in the community about this important safety net program in Stanislaus County.

POLICY ISSUE:

The Governor and the California Legislature have historically proclaimed May as CalFresh Awareness Month. Board of Supervisors' approval is required to proclaim a day, week, or month in celebration for a specific topic or County function.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Community Services Agency 2021-2022 Midyear budget includes sufficient appropriations and estimated revenue to support the current year CalFresh program administration activities.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITY:

The recommended action supports the Boards' priority of *Supporting Community Health* by increasing health and nutrition awareness in Stanislaus County.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There is no staffing impact associated with this agenda item.

CONTACT PERSON:

Christine Huber

Telephone: (209) 558-2500

Director, Community Services Agency

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Proclamation

Proclaiming May 2022 as CalFresh Awareness Month in Stanislaus County

WHEREAS, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), is federal program identified as CalFresh in California, was originally established in 1964 with the goal of reducing severe hunger in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, the CalFresh program provides monthly benefits for low income individuals and families, the elderly and disabled, improving their health and well-being by providing nutrition assistance and access to healthy food; and,

WHEREAS, in Stanislaus County, there are 37,646 households with 71,183 individuals enrolled in the CalFresh program; and,

WHEREAS, the Community Services Agency issues CalFresh benefits totaling approximately \$18 million per month, funded by State and Federal revenue, supporting food and nutrition in Stanislaus County; and,

WHEREAS, these monies spent in the community have a significant economic impact on our County; and,

WHEREAS, CalFresh monies not only help our individuals and families, but support the community safety net for those in need; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVED that Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors does hereby declare the month of May 2022 as CALFRESH AWARENESS MONTH in Stanislaus County, in recognition that the Community Services Agency, Valley farmers and local stores help the local safety net, to make the County of Stanislaus a healthier place for children and families.

The recommended actions are consistent with the Boards' priority of *Supporting Community Health* by proclaiming May, 2022, as CalFresh Awareness Month.